



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
District of Maryland*

*Thomas M. DiBiagio
United States Attorney*

*Vickie E. LeDuc
Public Information Officer*

*6625 United States Courthouse
101 West Lombard Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201-2692*

*410-209-4800
TTY/TDD: 410-962-4462
410-209-4885
FAX 410-962-3091
Vickie.LeDuc@usdoj.gov*

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**FOR FURTHER
INFORMATION CONTACT
VICKIE E. LEDUC, AUSA
(410) 209-4885**

SILVER SPRING MAN SENTENCED TO 51 MONTHS FOR IDENTITY THEFT

GREENBELT, Maryland - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced today that Shakiru A. Macaulay, age 44, Silver Spring, Maryland, was sentenced today by the Honorable Alexander Williams, Jr. to 51 months in prison for mail fraud and identity theft. Judge Williams also ordered Macaulay to pay \$204,410.86 in restitution to the victims of his fraud.

An investigation by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service revealed that from August 2000 to December 2003, Macaulay developed and executed a scheme to defraud whereby he would obtain various means of identification for other individuals – including social security numbers, dates of birth, and account numbers – and use them to take over the credit card accounts of those victims or open fraudulent credit card accounts in the victims' names. According to the statement of facts presented to the court on April 30, 2004 as part of his guilty plea, on at least 30 different occasions, Macaulay stole a victim's identity to "take over" their credit card accounts. Typically, Macaulay would use the victims' identifying information and call the credit card companies to have convenience checks or additional credit cards sent to him. He would then use the convenience

checks or additional cards to make unauthorized purchases. On at least 13 other occasions, Macaulay submitted false applications for credit cards using the personal identifying information of other victims. As with the account takeovers, the fraudulently obtained credit cards were sent to Macaulay via mail, and then used by him to make unauthorized purchases. The total amount of charges and purchases fraudulently incurred by the defendant was in excess of \$200,000.

This case was investigated by the United States Postal Inspection Service and Postal Inspector Robert M. Strande, and prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Chan Park.